

November 9, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - Oneida County is in the midst of two projects at Griffiss International Airport (Griffiss) to expand business at the airport to include refueling U.S. Military troop charter flights returning from overseas. Following a letter sent by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) and U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), FAA Administrator J. Randolph Babbitt sent a response this week that cleared Oneida County to continue planning and development on the new terminal building and fuel storage facility at Griffiss.

"This decision will help Griffiss Airport be even more of a center of job growth and economic activity," **said Schumer**. "It is good news for everyone involved, and we will continue working with the FAA to make sure things go smoothly from here."

"I am pleased that the FAA and Administrator Babbitt have been so receptive to our letter asking that the review process for the capital projects at Griffiss be expedited so that the county can continue to move forward with these critical economic development projects," **Arcuri said**

. "I look forward to my continued work with Senator Schumer, the FAA, Oneida County and Griffiss to ensure that these projects continue to move and develop in a timely manner as the prospects for new business and economic development at the airport are great."

Since 2008, Oneida County has contracted with Million Air to provide general aviation services at the airport. Million Air hopes to expand services to offer refueling for U.S. Military troop charters. The company has recently been awarded the Department of Defense (DOD) military fuel contract at Griffiss through 2012. However, for this initiative to move forward, the County must complete construction of an Airport Terminal Building in 2010 and construction of additional fuel storage and service facilities as soon as possible. Both of these capital projects are currently being reviewed by the FAA New York Airports District Office (NYDAO).

In an effort to continue the ongoing development at Griffiss Airport, Schumer and Arcuri sent a letter at the request of Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente to FAA Administrator Babbitt on October 7th, 2009, asking him to expedite the review of the capital projects. Administrator Babbitt responded to Schumer and Arcuri on October 29th, 2009 saying there were currently

no pending reviews being done by the FAA for these two projects and Griffiss could continue to proceed with the projects planning and development.

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